Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for conducting an auction for a sponsor, comprising:

receiving score computation information, at an auction system computer, for computing respective composite scores for respective bids submitted to the auction, the score computation information for computing a composite score comprising:

a selection of a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;

a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and

a weight specified for each of the selected categories;

receiving a bid from one or more participants, the bid including bid information corresponding to the selected categories;

calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the bid information;

determining the composite score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

identifying the bid having the highest composite score,

wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor, and

wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor,

wherein the step of receiving a bid from one or more participants comprises:

receiving values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;

calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the received values;

determining the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

displaying the composite score to the participant from which the values were received before the bid is submitted.

2.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.

3.   (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
sending a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

4-5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
notifying the participant having the bid identified as having the highest composite score.

8.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.

9.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the calculating of a weighted value for each one of the selected categories comprises:

scaling the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and

adjusting the scaled values with the weight specified for each of the selected categories.

11.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the determining of the composite score further includes summing the adjusted values.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having program code recorded thereon that is operable on a computer system for conducting an auction for a sponsor, the program code on the computer readable medium, when executed on a computer system, configured to:

receive score computation information for computing respective composite scores for respective bids submitted to the auction, the score computation information for computing a composite score comprising:

a selection of at least a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;

a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and

a weight specified for each of the selected categories;

receive a bid from one or more participants, the bid including bid information corresponding to the selected categories;

calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the bid information in the bid;

determine the composite score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

identify the bid having the highest composite score,

wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor, and

wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor,

wherein receive a bid from one or more participants comprises:

receive values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;

calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the received values;

determine a the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

display the composite score to the participant from which the values were received before the bid is submitted.

14.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, further configured to:

receive a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.

15.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 14, further configured to:

send a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.

19.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, further configured to:

notify the participant having the bid identified as having the highest composite score.

20.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 21, further configured to:

scale the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and

adjust the scaled values with the weight specified for each of the selected categories.

23.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 22, further configured to:

sum the adjusted values.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A window in a graphical user interface of a computer of a participant in an auction, comprising:

an auction window, displayed on the graphical user interface of the computer of the participant, operable to display information describing the content of the auction as provided by a sponsor of the auction;

a composite score window operable to display at least two of a plurality of categories selected as evaluation criteria for a bid, a value entered for each of the selected categories, and a composite score calculated according to the values entered for each of the selected categories, parameters set for each of the selected categories, and a weight specified for each of the selected categories, wherein the composite score is calculated based on the respective

weight for each of the selected categories and a value provided by the sponsor of the auction that relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor,

<u>wherein the composite score is displayed to the participant before the values are submitted to the auction.</u>

26.   (Previously Presented) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display an indication of the weight specified for each of the selected categories.

27.   (Previously Presented) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display a composite score corresponding to a highest calculated composite score and a composite score corresponding to values most recently submitted by a participant of the auction.

28.   (Cancelled)